

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
ADVOCACY & AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

November 19, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
Vectren Indianapolis Office, 101 W. Ohio St.

Karen Ellerbrook, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Linda Levell, John DePrez

Members present via videoconference: Karen Ellerbrook

Members present via teleconference: Terry Whitt Bailey, Pam Hicks, Jon Ford, Gil Cárdenas, Dick Stifel, Irene Smith-King, Jeanne Mirro (ex officio)

Members absent: Judy Hess

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Ms. Ellerbrook convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Mr. DePrez moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Smith-King seconded. Motion passed.

3. **IAC Advocacy Update.** Mr. Ricci recounted the recent news from the state budget office. The budget office had sought to mandate a 25% hold-back on remaining funds in the IAC FY2010 budget. IAC was permitted to appeal the decision, and ultimately the budget office mandated a 5% hold-back on the remaining FY2010 budget, which is the same percentage being required of all other state agencies. However, this additional budget reduction means that IAC must now re-examine its Regional Arts Partner system of delivering public funds and services state-side. The full commission will address this issue at its December 11 meeting. Mr. Ricci reminded the committee that further budget cuts could be on the horizon, depending on state revenue forecasts which will come in January 2010. Mr. Ricci reported that state senator Vi Simpson will introduce legislation in the 2010 session to provide public funding to newly-designated cultural districts within Indiana, although she does not expect the bill to look upon favorably in this session, due to the economic downturn. Ms. Ellerbrook praised Mr. Ricci for his efforts in “leading the charge” for arts advocacy in the state. Mr. Ricci thanked Deputy Director Michelle Anderson for her hard work with the IAC budget. Mr. Ricci also reported that, nation-wide, state arts commissions have suffered an average budget cut of 25%.

4. **State Arts Advocates Update.** Terry Whitt Bailey, president of the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, reported that Arts Day at the Statehouse will be January 26, 2010; she encouraged all to attend. The Community Arts and Leadership Awards will be presented that day. The deadline for nominations for the CALA awards is December 31.

5. Governor's Arts Awards Wrap Up. Terry Whitt Bailey thanked the committee and the IAC for allowing the city of Muncie to host the 2009 Governor's Arts Awards. Mr. Ricci remarked that the reason for presenting the GAA in cities other than Indianapolis is to provide a sense of ownership to communities which host the program. Taking the program outside of Indianapolis has the effect of raising the profile of the GAA, as the program can become less visible among the myriad and number of events being held in Indianapolis at any given time. Mr. Ricci praised Ms. Bailey, who is CEO of Cornerstone Center for the Arts in Muncie, which hosted the event. Ms. Bailey went on to suggest that the event should occasionally still be held in the capital city, and Ms. Hicks agreed. Mr. Ricci remarked that some states have suspended their Governor's Arts Awards due to budget constraints, and that there should be a discussion about presenting the 2011 GAA in Indianapolis, due to the possibility that it might be suspended; it would not be a good idea for a community to expend time, effort and money to prepare to host the event, only to learn that the event was going to be cancelled due to the budget. Ms. Bailey agreed. Mr. DePrez moved that the IAC present the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards in Indianapolis. Ms. Levell seconded the motion. Ms. Smith-King said that it had been her hope that the 2011 GAA would come to her home city of Gary. Motion passed. Ms. Mirro, IAC chair, expressed the thanks of the commission to the city of Muncie for a very successful event.

6. New Business. Ms. Ellerbrook informed everyone of a live webcast of the National Arts Forum. Ms. Mirro reported that national Arts Advocacy Day will be April 12 – 13, 2010 in Washington, D.C. and she encouraged everyone who is able to attend. Ms. Ellerbrook urged all committee members to keep abreast of arts advocacy matters so that conversations can be held whenever the opportunity arises. Ms. Hicks mentioned the recent founding of the Greenwood Arts Council.

7. Old Business. Mr. Van Zant reported that the latest Legislative Directory will be available soon. He also presented a handout (attached) explaining other IAC communications items.

8. Adjourn. Mr. Stifel moved to adjourn. Ms. Hicks seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.